

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-18 have been amended. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. The drawings have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to because the lines, numbers and letters are not uniformly thick and well-defined, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.184(l) and the reference characters are not at least 1/8 inch in height, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(3). This objection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, six (6) replacement sheets of drawings have been provided for the Examiner's consideration. It is requested that the Examiner substitute the six (6) sheets of replacement sheets for the six (6) sheets currently of record in the present application. Applicants submit that the replacement sheets of drawings are in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84(l) and 1.84(p)(3).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the drawings are now in proper form. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's drawing objection are respectfully requested.

Objection the Claims

Claims 1-18 stand objected to because they include reference characters which are not enclosed within parentheses. This objection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1-18 have been amended to include all of the reference characters within parenthesis as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the claim objection has been obviated.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 have been indicated by the Examiner as being directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants greatly appreciate this indication by the Examiner. Since the objection to the drawings and the claim objection have been overcome, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Paul C. Lewis, #43,368

PCL/cl
0505-1221P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are six (6) sheets of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

The drawings have been amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) to be in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84(l) and 1.84(p)(3).

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.